

OCTOBER — DECEMBER 2001

The SUSTAINER

Serving the proud soldiers of the 3d Corps Support Command



**3D COSCOM COMMANDER
AND COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
MESSAGES ... PAGES 2 & 3**

Brig. Gen. Fletcher shares philosophy

New commander outlines views

The 3d Corps Support Command welcomed Brig. Gen. Charles W. Fletcher Jr., as commander on July 3, 2001. Fletcher speaks with the Sustainer staff about his goals, philosophy and impressions of the COSCOM.

Interview by Ellen A. Hart
Photo by Carolanne Diggs

What are your main concerns and how will you address them?

My main concern now is to better understand the operations of the COSCOM. I want to talk to the commanders and command sergeants major about their concerns. That will drive what I will focus on. My concern right now is to get out and see the soldiers and visit units and get their point of view on things.

What do you expect of the 3d COSCOM soldiers and civilians?

From what I've seen so far, I'd expect them to keep doing what they are doing. Everyone I've met is fired up and enthusiastic. I'm absolutely amazed at the level of energy and the pride everybody takes in being a member of the 3d COSCOM. Obviously, this is a group of people who identify with one another, who identify with the unit, who identify with the mission and take great pride in being a part of this organization. That's really exhilarating for me.



Brig. Gen. Charles W. Fletcher Jr., assumes command of the 3d Corps Support Command, July 3, on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

What areas have you identified that need improvement? We need to make sure we keep the emphasis on Sergeants Time Training. We need to make sure that everything we do is tied back to the mission essential tasks. Setting and enforcing standards is an age-old challenge for leaders in the Army, and that's what I'll emphasize to leaders at every level.

What are some of your goals for the COSCOM? Before I arrived here, I got a flavor for the mission and the challenges of the 3d COSCOM. I want commanders and staff to form a common vision and lay out objectives. That will be the azimuth the

To the 3d COSCOM family,

On behalf of the 3d Corps Support Command, our prayers and sympathies are with our fellow citizens who lost their lives in the most evil and devastating act of terrorism on Sept. 11 in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. My heartfelt thanks to the 3d COSCOM soldiers, civilians, and family members for your selfless, steadfast and professional performance during this time of National Crisis. I am proud of all of you.

I am particularly gratified by the unprecedented outpouring of support, friendship and solidarity from our German hosts and neighbors in every place where 3d COSCOM soldiers and civilians live and work.

We have suffered a tremendous loss, but in the words of our commander in chief, "We will pass this test."

May God bless us all and bless our great nation.

Sustaining the Line!

Brig. Gen. Charles W. Fletcher Jr.

organization will be on where the commanders will execute and the command sergeant major and first sergeants will allow soldiers room to operate with autonomy.

see Fletcher page 15

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Carolanne Diggs

Vigilant

Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Aubain, 3d COSCOM sergeant major (right), talks with Master Sgt. Steven Murrill, 3d COSCOM, about force protection in Hainerberg Housing.

Aubain: *Stay focused!*

I am proud to be the Command Sergeant Major of the 3d Corps Support Command, the voice of the enlisted force.

I am deeply saddened by the horrific tragedies that have been perpetrated upon our nation. I extend my sympathies and condolences to all those who have been touched by this cowardly act of terrorism.

It is more important now than ever that our noncommissioned officers have the intestinal fortitude to recommend what is right — not what is easy.

*Stay focused! Stay ready!
When in charge, be in charge!
Sustaining the Line!*

Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony T. Aubain



Dave Accetta

Standing with us

A German couple stops at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield gate to reflect on the flowers placed there in memory of the lives lost in the terrorist attack on the United States Sept. 11.

... AND ON THE INSIDE ...

True grit: Nijmegen march grueling page 4

World War II vet rekindles friendship page 12

People & profiles page 10

Cover photo: Pfc. Jason Jackson pulls guard duty at the 3d Corps Support Command headquarters building as Force Protection measures increase in light of the terrorist attack on the United States. (photo by Ellen A. Hart)

Left photo: Sgt. Fernando Judkins uses the art of concealment as part of the 377th Trans. Co.'s defensive perimeter in its partnership exercise (story page 8). (photo by Darrin Bowser, 377th Trans. Co.)



4 days at Nijmegen



Grit, pluck, endurance hasten soldiers to finish line

by Carolanne Diggs

Why would a person voluntarily endure walking 25 miles in a day and turn around and do it again for the next three days?

For the last 85 years the answer has differed from person to person, yet thousands of people still assemble in Holland to walk in the annual Four Days Marches in Nijmegen.

The marches commemorate the town's liberation from Nazi oppression during World War II. Hundreds of U.S. soldiers showed their pride and stamina by taking part July 17-20.

Pain, fatigue and steady rain were prevalent most of the days, but the soldiers were still able to focus on the big picture.

Pvt. Forest Warren, HHC, 3rd Corps Support Command, said he kept his mind far from what was going on between his boots and the pavement.

"Mostly I thought about my friends back home and how I wished they could see me doing the march and how proud my family would be," he said.

He said he anticipated being in a lot of pain, but having a lot of fun at the same time.

Be it for exercise, a personal challenge or an opportunity to prove something to themselves, soldiers mentally and physically prepared and took the first step toward 100 miles.

Carolanne Diggs

The crowd parts to let marchers pass through to the finish line during the four-day annual Nijmegen march July 17-20.

see *March* page 6



3d Corps Suport
Command soldiers
hustle along during
the Nijmegen 4-day
march.

Dave Accetta

Does the road wind uphill
all the way?
Yes, to the very end.
Will the day's journey take
the whole day long?
From morn to night, my
friend.

Christina Georgina Rossetti
(1830-1894)
British poet

A member of the British Metropolitan
Police plants a kiss on the cheek of
a 3d COSCOM soldier near the
finish line on the final day of the
march.



Dave Accetta

Not only did 3d COSCOM soldiers proudly complete the march, but some of them can also boast being among the top finishers.

Spc. Jared Snyder, 19th Support Center, was the first U.S. soldier to complete the march. Sgt. Jesus Lopez was the second and Sgt. Roy Hahn was the fifth. They were also the first complete team to finish.

"I will definitely be going back next year and hopefully more in the future. This was probably the most painful experience of my life and very rewarding," Snyder said. "Marathons don't even compare."

Others were confident during the march that they would never return, but completion changed some minds.

"During the march I was telling everyone you are not going to see me here again next year. But now I know I will be back. I can't let those 80-year-olds outshine me," said Pfc. Jason Jackson, 3d COSCOM.

The seemingly endless hours of marching provided soldiers plenty of time to think and learn.

"I like to work out so I thought it would be great exercise for the legs. I used that time (marching) to listen to Spanish tapes and try to learn the language while I was walking," said Sgt. Natalya Kobets, HHC, 3d COSCOM.

"If you stop you hurt. The faster you move the faster the pain ends."

Spc. Jared Snyder

Just being part of the march was some motivation for others.

"You wake up at 2 in the morning barely able to walk, and in an hour you're marching fast for 30 miles," Snyder said.

The soldiers marched beyond the 25-mile-a-day requirement because their base camp was located about 2 ½ miles from the start point.

With rain weighing down their rucksacks, their feet softening and skin loosening from soaked boots and the dreadful day of seven hills, some soldiers were still able to think about next time. Bringing better boots and souvenirs for exchange topped the lists.



Carolanne Diggs

Soldiers from the 147th Maint. Co. enjoy a short break about six miles from the finish line. From left to right are: Specialists Jesse A. Moroni, John E. Hayes, Terry L. Buterbaugh, and Pfc. Matthew S. Corneau.

For Snyder, he would simply do one thing differently next time.

"I'd be the first one done out of all the countries every day," he said.

His advice to others who want to participate and be a top finisher is, "Don't stop."

"Many people made the mistake of stopping at rest stops. If you stop you hurt," he said. "The faster you move the faster the pain ends."

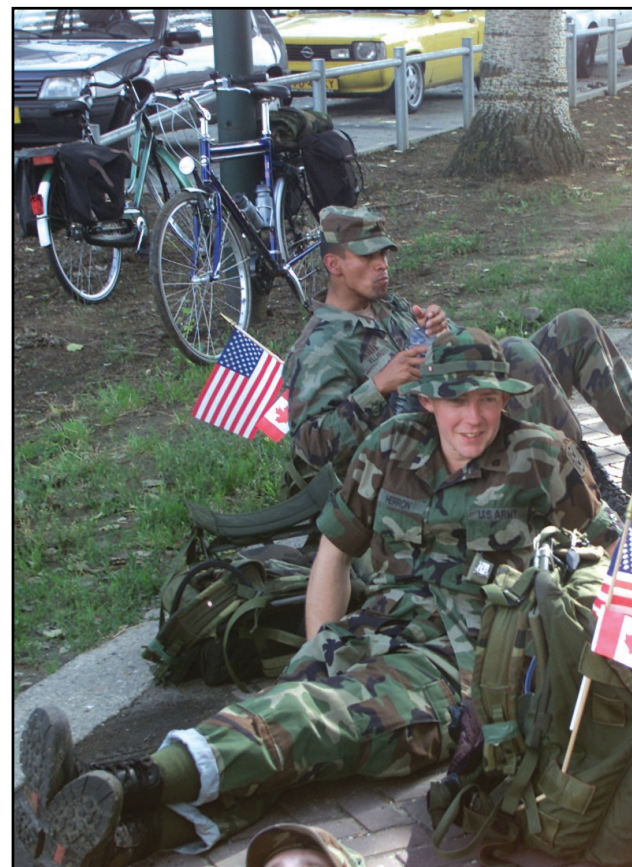
No matter the technique used, many soldiers completed the fourth day and were able to proudly say they accepted the challenge and accomplished their mission.

"When I watched our team march in with their heads held high even though they were exhausted, it really showed me something of the U.S. Army," said Pfc. Forest Warren, HHC, 3d COSCOM. "I knew I was with a great team and we had good leaders."

"The inauguration was beyond my imagination," said Pfc. Juan Pastrana, HHC, 3d COSCOM. "Looking at the people from other countries marching... I was thinking this is like any other competition, and we have to be sharp."

He said the combination of wearing his country's uniform combined with his own pride made it a proud time.

"I'll carry that that moment with me for the rest of my life," he said.



Two U.S. Army soldiers take a much-needed rest by the side of the road.



Soldiers of the 3d COSCOM press on to the finish line.

Carolanne Diggs



Dave Accetta

Nijmegen reflection ...

As I sit here at my desk in my study, listening to Pink Floyd, I reflect on my team's Nijmegen 2001 experience. In awe and wonder, I ask myself: was it really worth it? Were the soldiers on the team really ready for it? To both questions I answer a resounding "Yes!"

The Nijmegen Four Days Marches in July consisted of marching at least 40km (25 miles) a day for four days. Four months prior we began training and raising money. By May, we spent our days marching 10 to 18 miles a day, three times a week. The other two working days we spent at the gym or at the Sullivan Barracks wash rack raising money. The bonding experience, coupled with the soldiers' desire not to give up on themselves, got us through it.

Eighteen of us arrived at Camp Heumensoord (just outside of Nijmegen) on July 16. The first day of marching proved Nijmegen was no joke. We began our journey down "Death Row" full of confidence as other teams blew past us. A mere two days later there were more stragglers than I could count as we began our march. For all the training we had done, our team was plagued with blisters covering our feet.

Veterans of the marches told me the third day marching up Groesbeek Heights is the hardest part of the entire march. On the contrary, it was so wet, cold, and miserable that we were glad we were close to the finish and on our way home. We will always remember smoking those British cadets – sounding off louder than they did while going up the long first ascent to the top. We had fewer soldiers than they did.

On the final day, at least half of our team had blisters, while others were suffering from cramped legs, or in my case, legs that refused to work. But we kept on. Our will, spirit, and determination brought us home. I have experienced pain while on long marches before, however, nothing compares to the freezing temperatures of that week and the pounding rain with a driving wind, knowing you are only six miles from home. All 18 of us finished.

Though all of them said they will never march at Nijmegen again, I am sure this will be a gut check they never forget. It is my hope the pride they felt crossing the finish line will drive them back to want to do it again next year. We started and finished as a team and each soldier understood the motto of the marches: "You never march alone!"

Timothy Barrett
515th Trans Co.

Partnership FTX

A German partnership unit soldier waits in a hasty fighting position for a convoy.



377th Trans.
Co. Pfc.
Berelyn
Weiner
guards an
enemy
prisoner of
war she
captured.

377th Trans Co 'defends' against German unit

Story by Kari Brizius
Photos by Darrin Bowser
377th Transportation Company

After extensive planning and preparation, 2nd Platoon, 377th Transportation Company, was ready to deploy to defend against the Germans and any other enemy in the area. At 5 a.m. Staff Sgt. Richard Morse initiated the alert roster and the platoon took action.

That morning squad leaders conducted pre-combat inspections and ensured their soldiers had all the necessary materials to stay in the field for a week.

The platoon took less than a day to set up the perimeter, establish communication, and nearly complete all fighting positions. Each position had its own character but was built to standard and was difficult for the enemy to detect. After a long day of digging, running wire, and setting up

tents the platoon bedded down for the night with a small force on guard. The first two nights the platoon saw no action but kept alert.

The next day the first attack took place. **The small force** already on guard held off the attack until the rest of the platoon covered the perimeter. First squad defended the far right near the 515th Transportation Company's perimeter, second

see *Partnership* next page



Partnership

from page 8

squad defended the middle along with the LP/OP, and third squad defended the left near first platoon's positions. As soon as the first shot rang out, the whole platoon exploded onto the perimeter to defend against the German force.

A gas attack lasted for nearly an hour but the platoon had no problems. After testing for remaining gas in the area the all-clear was given. The fight lasted over an hour and then the forces regrouped. Once the whole platoon reported their status and redistributed ammo, the platoon went back to a small force on guard.

The second day led to more action. Early that morning the platoon was given the order to recover a broken down tank and drop it off at Training Area 1. After running through a short rock drill and giving the convoy commander briefing, the platoon rolled out to recover the tank. At the pick up site, the platoon pulled guard while Sgt. Alejandro Aguilar Mora and Pfc. Justin Keeney winched the tank onto the trailer.

On the return trip the convoy ran into an ambush. With few problems the soldiers ran off the enemy and even took one prisoner of war. Pfc. Berelyn Weiner captured one of the German soldiers in the woods and brought him back to be searched. With the help of another soldier the proper procedures were performed. The convoy continued on its way and completed the mission.

After completion of another mission, 2nd Platoon had a new challenge on its hands. Intelligence reported that a battalion-sized element approached the site 2nd Platoon currently occupied. This meant they would have to quickly learn a task none of the soldiers had ever performed: withdraw under fire. After a few practice runs the platoon felt prepared for any enemy. The platoon upgraded to 100 percent security to fend off any advance party troops and possibly defend its area. But once the call came that the position could no longer be held, troops got out of harm's way.

"This is the most I have ever learned in the field and I had a good time doing it," Weiner said.

The platoon proved it was ready to deploy at any time and also built a stronger partnership with the Germans.



Staff Sgt. Martina Walton, 596th Maint. Co., 485th CSB, fires a German G3 rifle at a 300-meter target. Walton placed sixth in the Women's International Division.

SHOOT COMPETITION

485th soldiers compete, finish in top 10

Story and photo
by Dave Accetta

If you ever thought that logisticians couldn't shoot, several members of the 485th Combat Support Battalion would prove you wrong.

At the recent 23rd International Shooting Competition held near Bonn, two soldiers from the 596th Maintenance Company placed in the top 10 among nearly 300 competitors from all over Europe.

Shooting German Army rifles and pistols, Staff Sgt. Gregory Smith placed second overall in the individual international division and Staff Sgt. Martina Walton placed sixth in the women's international division.

Teams from all branches of the German Ministry of Defense and Police Forces, along with military teams from the Czech Republic, Austria, Belgium, Poland and the Netherlands converged on the Belgian Army's Camp Spich for the competition sponsored by the German Ministry of Defense Noncommissioned Officers Association.

The annual competition raises money for the Military Cancer Foundation and promotes camaraderie and military marksmanship among the police and military organizations. The U.S. participation was organized by the U.S. Forces Liaison Office and included five four-member teams from the 485th CSB.

485th Participants

Team 1

Staff Sgt. Gregory Smith
Staff Sgt. Martina Walton
Sgt. George M. Watson
Spc. Everett Sampson

Team 2

Sgt. Titus Knoernschild
Spc. Mathew C. Sharp
Pvt. Eric Aragon
Spc. Christopher Cann

Team 3

Sgt. Christopher Witte
Spc. Brad Pittenger
Spc. Robert Walters
Spc. Juan Gutierrez

Team 4

Sgt. Gary S. Pell
Spc. Corey Ray
Spc. Josh Hughes
Pfc. Gregory Ward

Team 5

Sgt. Mike Wolfe
Sgt. Mark Ferron
Spc. Adrian Duke
Sgt. 1st Class Karole L. Birch

Officer in Charge: 2nd Lt. Matthew Freede
Noncommissioned Officer in Charge: Sgt. 1st Class Karole Birch

FORCE PROTECTION

Gettin' wired

Force Protection soldiers Sgt. Ryan Marshall and Spc. Sardie Izzard place white tape on barbed wire located at the entrance way into Crestview Housing Area. The white tape is used to ensure the barbed wire will be visible during the day and night.



Photos by Cassandra Kardeke/221st BSB Public Affairs

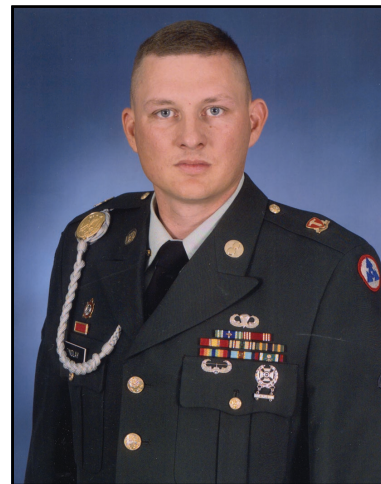
ID checks



As part of force protection measures, soldiers stop vehicles and check identification cards of anyone entering into Crestview housing area. Force protection was increased throughout the Wiesbaden area following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon Sept. 11.

PEOPLE & PROFILES

Soldier of the Quarter



Spc. Richard L. Findlay was named 3d Corps Support Command's Soldier of the Quarter for the third quarter, calendar year 2001. Findlay's MOS is 52D-10 Power Generation Repair, but is currently serving as the PAC NCOIC with the 77th Maint. Co., 18th Corps Support Battalion.

NCO of the Quarter



Sgt. Roy Hahn was named 3d Corps Support Command's NCO of the Quarter for the third quarter, calendar year 2001. Hahn is the NCOIC of the 19th Support Center's S2 shop. He was one of the top finishers in the Nijmegen Four Days March in Holland in July.

Civilian of the Quarter



Karl Raue, GS-11, was selected as the 3d Corps Support Command's Civilian of the Quarter for the 3d quarter, calendar year 2001. Raue is a Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance) with Support Operations Division, Ammunition Supply Point No. 1 in Vilseck.

Civilians recognized for 5 years' service

Three 3d COSCOM civilians were recognized for **five years of service** in a ceremony in the headquarters conference room.

* Daniel Dye, GS-11, Logistics Management Specialist, 19th Support Center

* Clifton Peterson, GS-7, Supply Technician, G4 Property Book

* Charles Lyles, GS-7, Budget Technician, RMO Budget.

71st Ordnance Co. cited for excellence

The 71st Ordnance Co., 18th Corps Support Battalion, 16th Corps Support Group, took the runner-up position in the medium category for the V Corps Army Awards Maintenance Excellence Award for fiscal year 2001.

SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Sgt. Melissa Wolfe
Unit: 485th Corps Support Battalion
MOS: 31U, communications specialist
Hometown: Elizabeth, W.V.

When did you join the Army?
Aug. 4, 1998

Why did you come into the Army?
I originally came in because I had no money for college and I wanted to see and do something. The Army will feed, clothe and shelter you, and you get to see everything.

What are your day-to-day responsibilities?
I'm the re-enlistment and legal NCO. At first I was just doing the re-enlistment, but I talked to the sergeant major to get the additional job. In commo, I was used to always running around and going to the field. I was used to always being busy. Now I find out who's eligible for re-enlistment and get them in touch with the sergeant major.

What are your goals?
I want to get a degree in nursing . I'm preparing my packet for Green to Gold so I can be enrolled in school by next August.

What's been your best experience in the military?
My second time in Macedonia. It was my 20th birthday and they had a party for me. They got a slice of cake from the DFAC (dining facility) and everyone made me homemade cards. The battalion commander and sergeant major were there, and I got a half-day off, which means a lot downrange. The first time I went to Macedonia, I arrived on my 19th birthday, and that was exciting.



Sgt. Melissa Wolfe

What do you like about the Army?
I like the Army - the benefits and the esprit de corps. I love Germany. It's my first duty station. It's awesome. I've deployed twice, and I like getting to meet soldiers in other armies.

What message do you have for other soldiers?
I think everyone should spend at least two years in the Army. You just need that small measure of this is what it's really like. It allows you to get the experience without completely going off the hook. Then you start saving and planning for the future. The Army even has classes to help you with that. If I hadn't come in, I would have never seen the things I did. Before I left home, I never even saw the rest of the state. The Army is not hard, you just have to take it one day at a time.

1st Term Re-enlistees

Check out "Current COSCOM Community Information" at the 3d COSCOM website at www.3coscom.wiesbaden.army.mil.

VETERANS DAY SALUTE

War vet, friend reunite after 56 years

*by Katsugo Miho
as told to Ellen A. Hart*

*Archive photos courtesy
of Katsugo Miho*

Emma and Katsugo, 1945



Editor's note: Katsugo Miho is a spry 79-year-old U.S. Army veteran who served with the 522d Field Artillery Battalion, 442d Regimental Combat Team during World War II. The 442d was the most-decorated Army unit of the war. It fought in Italy from June to September 1944, and in France from October 1944 to March 1945. The 522d took part in battles and campaigns in the Vosges Mountain region of France, liberating Bruyeres and in the rescue of the "Lost Battalion."

Of Japanese descent, Katsugo was a Nisei (second generation), born in Hawaii. He returned to Germany this year for the first time since the end of the war to speak at a 3d Corps Support Command Asian Pacific luncheon. While in Germany, he recalled memories of the war, and how he sought out an old German friend he hadn't seen in 56 years. This is his story.

I live in Manoa Valley, five minutes from the University of Hawaii, where skies are blue, and warm soft breezes blow into the valley from the Pacific Ocean. But come with me now across the seas to the battlefields of Europe where World War II is almost over.

In March 1945 my unit, the 522d Field Artillery Battalion, separated from the 442d Regimental Combat Team to participate in the invasion of Germany. The 522d followed Gen. George Patton Jr.'s armor units in the breakthrough of the Siegfried Line in the vicinity of Kleinblittersdorf. Its line of march involved cities like Mannheim, Heidelberg, Stuttgart, Ulm, Augsburg, Dachau and Munich.

On or about April 28, 1945, the 522d helped liberate Jewish inmates from the Dachau concentration camp and surrounding feeder camps along the notorious death corridor from Dachau to the south of Munich. The men of the 522d were witnesses to the most unforgettable nightmare of "man's inhumanity to man."

After helping to liberate the concentration camps, the 522d became attached to the 101st Airborne Division. We were to take Bertchesgaden but then were ordered to "cease fire" on May 6, 1945.

After the war, the 522d occupied the German town of Donauworth to guard the Danube River bridge. B Battery, of which I was a member, occupied the village of Mertingen. Being part Patton's troops, we

"We soon discovered that our 'laundry families' wanted to be paid in chocolate, C-rations and most importantly, cigarettes. One cigarette was worth five American dollars."

were required to undergo frequent and regular inspections even though we were far from other American units in our vicinity.

We had to wash our own clothes and found laundry facilities inadequate. Necessity is the mother of invention, they say, so we soon adopted individual German families to wash our clothes, which we paid with occupation money.

However, we soon discovered that our "laundry families" wanted to be paid in chocolate, C-rations and most importantly, cigarettes. One cigarette was worth five American dollars.

Fifteen-year-old Emma and her family had evacuated Stuttgart and were living in Mertingen when they took my laundry in. A standing "no fraternization" order did not affect our unit,



Katsugo Miho and friend Emma look at old photos and reminisce about their friendship.

(by Randy Carpenter)

and I was free to participate in family life with Emma, her sister and mother. I quickly became a member of the family. Several months later, a young German man showed up on Emma's doorstep. It was Emma's brother Walter returning home from the war in Italy.

Through our limited communication skills, I learned that Walter had been in the Florence area during the war when I was there with the 522d. He was a machine gunner whose task it was to harass us Americans who were dug in across the Arno River. He became a prisoner of war under the watchful eye of the 442d before his release to return to Mertingen.

In December 1945 I said a tearful goodbye to Emma and her family. I was going home. I didn't want to leave such a wonderful friendship, but I needed to put behind me the horror of the war and Dachau, in particular.

see War Vet next page

War vet

from page 13



Soldiers of the 522d toss horseshoes behind a building in Mertingen (1945).

Fifty-six years later I returned to Germany for a speaking tour. Two thoughts were uppermost in my mind during my flight from Hawaii to Europe. With a sense of dread, I wanted to revisit Dachau. But most importantly, I hoped I could find my old friend Emma.

After my speaking obligation at several U.S. Army Europe facilities, I drove to Mertingen. The village looked as if nothing had changed. But I had difficulty locating the brewery that had housed B Battery because the building had been remodeled and was now a gasthaus.

“Was finding Emma going to be so easy after all these years?”

I could not remember where Emma’s house was. Being Saturday, the only place open was a gas station. Wondering whether I’d have any chance at all of finding Emma,



Emma and her brother Walter (1945).

I showed the lady behind the counter at the gas station my 1945 photos of Emma and asked if she knew the family and did they still live in Mertingen.

“Does she have a brother?” the lady asked studying the photos.

“That’s her brother in the picture,” I said, pointing to a handsome fellow with Emma in one of the photos.

“Just a moment.” She picked up the phone, spoke excitedly to the person on the other end, and hung up.

“Just yesterday, a man from Munich named Walter was visiting Mertingen,” she said smiling. “He just happened to come into the gas station and talked about old times.

“He said his mother washed clothes for an American soldier of Japanese descent in 1945. He gave me his sister’s address and phone number. His sister is your Emma.”

I couldn’t believe it! Was finding Emma going to be so easy after all these years?

“...the bells of Dachau began ringing. In a cold sweat, I relived the horror that was Dachau.”

The lady then dialed Emma’s phone number. Emma was astonished and did indeed remember me. We arranged to meet the following day.

I had long forgotten what little German I had learned. Emma did not speak English, but with smiles, hugs, and hand signals, we communicated our joy at seeing each other. Through photo albums and pictures, we reminisced about our friendship a lifetime ago.

Reluctantly, I left Emma the next day to catch my plane back to Hawaii. But I had to make a stop at Dachau because I didn’t know if I would ever return.

Dachau was as real and vivid as the day we helped liberate its inmates. A strange thing happened while walking through the crematorium and gas chambers. I clearly experienced the presence of “ki”. Some people refer to “ki” as energy or vibration for want of a better description.

As I headed towards the exit I turned around and put myself in a posture of reverence and piety; in Zen or Buddhism this is known as “gassho.” At that moment the bells of Dachau began ringing. In a cold sweat, I relived the horror that was Dachau.

Perhaps though, when memories of the war and Dachau come crashing like waves upon the beach, I can relive my friendship with Emma. That thought alone brings me peace.

Fletcher

from page 2

What are your major training goals?

First, individual training, then we'll look at collective training. I am most interested in those elements of individual training that can benefit the promotion of soldiers. I'm interested in marksmanship and physical fitness. Not just because they promote soldiers but these are fundamental skills.

In terms of collective training, we have Victory Strike coming up in Poland, deployments next summer, and our day-to-day requirements of our separate brigades and separate units of the corps.

I would want the soldiers and civilians of this organization to consider their tour of duty in the COSCOM to be a highlight of their career. If we reward them individually and they have a strong sense of ownership of the organization, then we will have been successful.

Do you have any mottoes or sayings that guide your actions and decisions?

Yes, one is you've got to walk the talk. It doesn't matter what you say; what you do is what people will see. It requires an honest dialogue with the people around you. That's



"The basic formula for success is to recognize the sanctity of individuals and the importance of the mission."

where you need people to tell you the truth and not what you want to hear.

Another is: keep your priorities to three. If you have more than that you begin to dilute those priorities. Then you get into the issue that everything is a priority. A very good way to measure the success of unit is to ask the question: Does the unit do routine things routinely?

If you don't, you're always going to stumble, and you will never be able to progress past them.

The basic formula for success is to recognize the sanctity of individuals and the importance of the mission. If you can strike a balance between those two, if you can treat everybody with respect, and get everybody working toward mission accomplishment while keeping those two working together, that's success.

Whom do you admire the most and why?

I admire both my father and my grandfather. When I was growing up, I saw my grandfather as a patriarchal figure. He was a state senator and had fought in both world wars.

As one of six children, I'm an "Army brat" and spent many summers while I was in the States with my grandparents. My grandfather was a great figure and well respected in politics in Michigan. One of my fondest memories of him was when he walked me through the halls of the state capitol when I was five years old. It made a big impression on me.

Now my father is someone I admire and respect as well. He fought in World War II and was one of the first set of advisors to go to Vietnam. He retired as a general officer.

And, of course, I admire my wife for all the things she does. We have three children and she's retired military. It's a difficult task to balance a career and the responsibilities of wife and mother. She helps me keep my balance at work and home.

What keeps you focused on the mission?

I absolutely love what I do. I love being around soldiers. I get up every morning and look forward to the day. And even the bad days are good days. I'm loving life.☺

Looking for a few good stories ...

Do you or someone you know have an unusual hobby? A special talent? Something you'd like your fellow soldiers or the folks back home to know?

The Sustainer magazine would like to showcase soldiers and civilians who have unique stories to tell. Call the 3d COSCOM Public Affairs Office at DSN 337-6771, 5472 or 5718, or email

david.accetta@3coscom.wiesbaden.army.mil;

ellen.hart@3coscom.wiesbaden.army.mil or

carolanne.diggs@3coscom.wiesbaden.army.mil with your story idea.



CONGRATULATIONS

FY01 4th Quarter Re-enlistees!

HHC, 7th CSG

Spc. Glenn Schuller

7-159th Avn Bn

Staff Sgt. Kevin Sanders
Sgt. Christopher Donaldson
Sgt. Aaron White
Sgt. Simonia Thompson

181st Trans Bn

Staff Sgt. Robert Parrish
Sgt. Robert Williamson
Sgt. Steven Olenick
Sgt. Christopher Vandeventer
Sgt. Todd Evans
Sgt. Calvin Coates
Sgt. Steven Jordan
Sgt. Frank Persa
Sgt. Dwayne Robinson
Spc. Chavone Freeman
Spc. Jimmy Wallace
Spc. Jason Lang
Spc. Leonard Gilbert
Spc. William Melvin
Spc. Andrea Pierce
Spc. Simion Taiyegir
Spc. Alexander Westbrook
Spc. Marie Zukemura

71st CSB

Sgt. Mary Avalos
Sgt. Jose Guerra
Sgt. Charles Johnson
Sgt. Anthony Andronczyk

Sgt. Jimmie Baker
Sgt. Denise Cassidy
Sgt. Scott Castellano
Sgt. Aaron Duran
Sgt. Yolanda Riddick
Sgt. Jeffrey Scott
Spc. Kriss Collins
Spc. Corey Durham
Spc. Michael Gregory
Spc. Dewayne Harrison
Spc. Jernard Woodard
Spc. Bruce Jackson
Spc. Corey Bunch
Spc. Veronica Hernandez

HHC, 16th CSG

Spc. Amie Holland
Spc. Racquel Moore

18th CSB

Staff Sgt. Aureliano Almazan
Staff Sgt. David Brauburger
Sgt. Aurele Anthony Marc
Sgt. Kenneth McLean
Sgt. Agustin Reyesrodriguez
Sgt. Kelvin Sweeper
Spc. Irv James Portschell II

485th CSB

Sgt. Kersyton Uzama
Spc. Ivan Alarcom
Spc. Garfield Borneo
Spc. James Dean
Spc. Nicholas Akers
Spc. Raymond Hookfin

19th Spt Ctr

Cpl. Abygaile Hieronymus
Spc. Chad Schell

27th Trans Bn

Staff Sgt. Chester Montgomery
Staff Sgt. Timothy Smith

STB

Spc. Vernon Middleton

3d Corps Support Command Certificate of Achievement in recognition of the retention mission for the fiscal year 2001 goes to:

7th CSG

Sgt. 1st Class Maile Stackpole
Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Kopar
Staff Sgt. Josefina Martinez
Staff Sgt. Ricardo Miller

16th CSG

Sgt. 1st Class Candance Nattiel
Staff Sgt. Jackie Leverett
Sgt. Melissa Wolfe
Sgt. Steven Obanion

19th Spt Ctr

Staff Sgt. Author Sandlain

27th Trans Bn

Staff Sgt. Aaron Denno